(b) The areas such as violence against pregnant women, creches at work place, clean cooking etc. fall under the mandate of different Ministries/Departments. The Ministry of Women and Child Development is pursuing with Ministries/ Departments to engender and incorporate gender concerns in their policies and programmes. For this purpose the Ministry organizes workshops and training programmes on tools and strategies of Gender Budgeting to the Gender Budget cells set up in various Ministries/Departments.

Malnutrition and starvation in Vidarbha region

†2283. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a team of National Human Rights Commission has been sent to investigate the deaths caused by malnutrition and starvation in the tribal areas of Yawatmal district of Vidarbha region in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) the steps taken by Government to check the deaths being caused by malnutrition in the children of the tribals in Vidarbha region; and

(d) the number of the tribals and their children died due to malnutrition and starvation till date? . .

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) The National Human Rights Commission has deputed its Special Rapporteur in April, 2007 to visit the tribal areas in Maharashtra and to conduct a detailed study of the current position of food supply and malnutrition in those areas and also to make a study on how the various schemes are initiated by the Tribal Development Department, Government of Maharashtra to solve the problems of starvation and infant mortality. The Rapporteur was asked to submit his report within 12 week's time.

(b) The report of Special Rapporteur is yet to be received.

(c)The Government is implementing a number of schemes which directly or indirectly improve the nutritional status of women and children. Some of these are as under:

(i) Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme (Ministry of Women and Child Development);

The steps taken in the recent past to increase the effectiveness of the delivery of services under ICDS are:

(1) The scheme has been expanded twice in the year 2005-06 and 2006-07 during the Tenth Five Year Plan.

(2) The Government has doubled the financial norms for supplementary nutrition from Re.l to Rs.2/- per beneficiary per day.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(3) From the year 2005-06, 50% cost of supplementary nutrition is also being shared with the States/UTs.

(4) A Central Monitoring Unit (CMU) has been set up at National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD) to monitor the scheme through independent profession organisation, institution in each State/UT. This would be in addition to the monitoring mechanism in place at present.

(5) A National Level Monitoring Committee has also been constituted under the Chairpersonship of MOS(WCD) to oversee the entire functioning of the Scheme and to ensure that the services are delivered to the Target groups in an effective manner and the objectives of the scheme are fulfilled within the overall framework of the ICDS scheme.

(6) Constant emphasis on States to:

- Ensure regular supply of supplementary nutrition as per schematic norms.
- Ensure effective convergence of health, nutrition, education and safe drinking water services under various programmes.

(ii) National Programme for Nutritional Support to Primary Education (Mid Day Meal Scheme) [Department of School-Education and Literacy];

(iii) Nutrition Programme for Adolescent Girls in 51 districts to provide free foodgrains to undernourished adolescent girls (Ministry of Women and Child Development);

(iv) Nutrition Education and Training Programmes of Food and Nutrition Board (Ministry of Women and Child Development);

(v) Reproductive and Child Health (RCH-II) Programme under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) including:

- Maternal Health by promoting institutional deliveries, improved coverage and quality of ante natal care (ANC), skilled care to pregnant women, Post-partum care at Community level.
- Immunization.
- Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illnesses and malnutrition.
- Emphasis on Infant and Young Child Feeding.
- Specific Programmes to prevent and combat micronutrient deficiencies of Vitamin A and Iron and Folic Acid through VitaminA Supplementation for children till the age of 5 years and Ironand Folic Acid Supplementation for preschool children, pregnantand lactating women. (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare);

(vi) National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare);

(vii) Targeted Public Distribution System (Department of Food and Public Distribution).

(viii) The Village Grain Banks Scheme in chronically food scarce areas (Department of Food and Public Distribution).

(ix) Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme/ Swajaldhara and Total Sanitation Campaign; National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (Ministry of Rural Development).

(d) The details of number of child deaths (including tribal children), due to malnutrition are not being centrally maintained by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

. Deaths of children due to malnutrition

2284. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAl: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 2.5 million children die in the country due to malnutrition every year accounting for one in five deaths of children in the world and girls in the country are also 50 per cent more likely to die than boys;

(b) whether it is also a fact that every child under six years of age as well as pregnant and nursing mothers are entitled to the package of services under Integrated child Development Services programme; and

(c) if so, what Government are doing to popularize the programme in rural areas particularly in Uttar Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh where majority of women are not aware of their rights?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) The details of number of child deaths due to malnutrition are not maintained centrally by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. However, malnutrition is not a direct cause Of death although it can increase the susceptibility to morbidity and mortality by reducing body's resistance to infections.

As per the Registrar General of India Survey, the Child Mortality Rate (CMR) in the year 2005 (age 0-4 years) is 17.3 per thousand population of the corresponding age group.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Information, Education and Communication (lEC) and Community Mobilization activities under the ICDS Scheme aim at creating awareness about the ICDS Programme and stimulating demand for it. Government of India release grant- in-aid towards IEC component to all StatesAJTs under the ICDS Scheme.